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MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTH SESSION

—OF THE—

GRAY'S CREEK

Colored Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Pleasant Grove, (Colored) Robeson Co., N. C.,

November 4th-7th, 1875.

REV. JAS. BRIGHT, Moderator, Whiteville, N. C.
OWEN C. McMILLAN, Clerk, St. Paul's, N. C.
RICHARD NcDUGALD, Treasurer, Peacock's, N. C.

WILMINGTON, N. C.:
S. G. HALL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
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PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, November 4th, 1875.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder Mitchell Morrison, from Revelation Chapter VII, Verse 13th: "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?" At the close of which an intermission of twenty minutes was given.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator of last session, who read Romans, Chapter VIII, and the delegates joined in singing "Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove," &c., when Elder E. D. Johnson invoked the Divine direction.

Brethren Owen C. McMillan, Julius Burns and Nelson Dunham were appointed a Committee on Finance. Elder E. D. Johnson was requested to aid them.

On motion, the Church Letters were called for and read, Delegates' names enrolled and Statistics entered. Elder D. C. McMillan assisting.

Then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows: Elder James Bright, Moderator; Owen C. McMillan, Clerk; and Richard McDugald, Treasurer.

An invitation was extended to visiting ministers and corresponding messengers, when Elder E. D. Johnson and Brother Jas. Fisher from the Cedar Creek, and Elder D. C. McMillan, and Brethren Wm. J. Tolar, A. D. Biggs and D. C. Humphrey (whites) from Cape Fear, and Elder Joshua Floyd, (colored) from Eastern Association, came forward and accepted seats. Bro W. J. Tolar presented a package of minutes from Cape Fear Association.

Brethren McMillan and Tolar (whites) were, on motion, solicited to aid the Association in its duties.

Appointed the Pastor and Deacons of this church to arrange the order of divine service during the session of this body, and to protect the congregation from molestation by any person whatever.

On motion, the thanks of this body are tendered to visiting brethren for their kind attentions and assistance.

Then, on motion, adjourned till 9½ o'clock A. M. to-morrow. Hymn, "Once more before we part," &c. Prayer by Elder James Bright.

FRIDAY, Nov. 4th, 1875.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Moderator read Psalm CXXXIII; sang "Brethren I am come again," &c. Elder Hanson Gore addressed a throne of grace.

On motion, minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Invitation to visiting brethren was then renewed.

An opportunity was at this moment given to newly constituted churches desiring admission into this body, when Abbottsburg, Bladen County, N. C., Piney Grove, Columbus County, N. C., and Hickory Grove, Horry County, S. C., presented letters and upon being found sound in the faith and regularly organized, were most cordially received, and their delegates seated in the body.

On motion, Brother James Bright, Treasurer for last year, reported—report received and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

On motion, Brother Samuel Boon, Treasurer two years ago, is called on for his official report to be presented to-morrow morning for adjudication.

The former Clerk made an explanatory statement of his work and duties for the past year, and received the commendation of the Association.

The body then voted that the Clerk should take charge of all papers and documents belonging to this Association, for safe keeping, and that he be held responsible for the same.

On motion, Elder John Croslin, Brethren Alexander H. Moore, James Evans, John Morley and Harrison Singletary be appointed a committee to superintend the transcribing, printing and distributing these minutes.

On motion, requested the Moderator to procure one copy, and the Clerk two copies of the minutes of each session of this Association and hold them subject to the order of the Association.

Recess of twenty minutes was then taken.

On re-assembling the Moderator announced the following committees: On Ordination of Ministers, Elders A. H. Moore, N. D. Wooten, Willis Haynes, John Croslin and John M. Whitted. On Education, Elders John Croslin, Mitchell Morrison and Brother James Evans. On Special Changes, Brethren John Morley, Harrison Singletary and Elder Moses Louder. On Missions, Elder Mitchell Morrison and Brethren James Evans and Luke Hodges. On Periodicals, Brethren Robert Hester, Levi Lennon and Elder A. H. Moore. On Sabbath Schools, Brethren Richard McDugald, Wright Pitman and Wright Singletary.

Unanimously requested Elder D. C. McMillan to preach to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Agreed that the next session of this Association be held with the Ebenezer Church, Robeson County, N. C., commencing on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1876. Elder John Croslin to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder Hanson Gore, alternate. Elder James Bright, Charity Sermon 12 o'clock Sabbath; Elder John M. Whitted, alternate.

On motion, ordered that a letter and two copies of the minutes of this Association be sent to each, the Cape Fear and the Cedar Creek Association. Requested Brethren Wm. J. Tolar, A. D. Biggs and Lewis Humphrey to prepare the letters.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow. Hymn: "The day is past and gone," &c. Prayer by Elder Sharpe Gore.

SATURDAY, Nov. 6th, 1875.

Met pursuant to adjournment The moderator read a part of the XLV Chapter of Isaiah, and the Brethren sang "How sweet to bless the Lord," &c, when Elder A. R. Thompson led in prayer.

The Clerk called the roll of churches, and the Moderator renewed the invitation to visiting brethren, whereupon Brother M. D. Howard from the Cedar Creek Association was welcomed to a seat.

On motion, the report of Elder S. Boon, the ex-treasurer, was called for and Brother S. Boon failing to appear, it was unanimously voted that Elder Haynes Lennon and Brothers Wm. J. Tolar, John W. Ellis, Wm. C. Powell, of Cape Fear Baptist Association be requested to sit in council with Elders John Croslin, John M. Whitted and James Bright to examine and audit the accounts of Brother S. Boon and report to this Association at its next session.

On motion, agreed that all funds belonging to this body be paid, if necessary, for obtaining the minutes (now in printer's hands) of the fifth session of this Association, and that Brethren Lewis Moore, James Evans and Levi Lennon be authorized to obtain them and distribute among all the churches of this body, the Treasurer paying for the same.

Brethren J. T. Ausley and Lewis Humphrey of the Cedar Creek Association being in the house were invited to seats.

The hour for service by Elder D. C. McMillan having arrived the body retired to the appointed place. At the close of the sermon a recess of twenty minutes was given.

Association came into session. Sang "Ye messenger of Christ," &c., and Brother Wm. J. Tolar invoked the help of the Lord.

Committee on Special Changes reported. Report received and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

Committee on Sabbath Schools presented their report, which was received and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

Committee on Periodicals reported. Report adopted and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

Committee on Ordination reported that there were no applications and were discharged.

Committee on Education presented their report, which was received and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

Committee on Missions reported. The report was adopted and ordered to be appended to these minutes.

Committee on Finance reported forty-two dollars and fifty-six cents received from the churches.

Ordered that the Committee of Finance pay the amount reported, into the hands of the Treasurer.

A newly constituted Church, Paradise, Bladen County, N. C., whose delegates just arrived, desired admission to this body, and upon examination of their faith and principles were cordially admitted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the colored citizens of this community for their very hospitable entertainment of our body; and also, to the white brethren, who aided us in our deliberations.

On motion it was unanimously agreed to refer all unfinished business to an Executive Committee consisting of Elders John M. Whitted, John Croslin, A. H. Moore, A. R. Thompson, James Bright, N. D. Wooten, Joseph McKay, and Deacons Israel Moore and John Morley, who shall arrange the same for insertion in these minutes.

On motion adjourned to time and place above specified.—Adjournment to take effect from and after the close of to-morrow's service.

Hymn: "Jesus grant us all a blessing," &c. Prayer by Elder John Croslin.

JAMES BRIGHT, *Moderator.*

OWEN C. McMILLAN, *Clerk.*

SUNDAY, Nov. 7th, 1875.

Notwithstanding the general inclemency of the weather the concourse composed of white and colored people was quite large.

Elder Hanson Gore addressed the congregation from Isaiah, Chapter LX and Verse 20th, "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdrawn itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." This discourse was delivered with much impressiveness.

Elder James Bright, with his usually happy style, followed with a discourse from Luke IV, 44th Verse, "And He preached in the Synagogues of Galilee." A collection for Missions was taken up amounting to four ($4 91) dollars and ninety-one cents.

After the lapse of thirty minutes Elder Joseph McKay from St. John's III, 7th Verse, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again." It is hoped that much good was effected.

MINISTER'S NAMES & POST OFFICES.

Boon, Samuel	Prospect Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
Bowman, James	Fayetteville, Cumberland County, N. C.
Bright, James	Whiteville, Columbus County, N. C.
Bryan, James	Willis' Creek, Bladen County, N. C.
Croslin, John	Prospect Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
Gilmore, Nathan	Willis' Creek, Bladen County, N. C.
Gore, Hanson	Whiteville, Columbus County, N. C.
Gore, Sharp	Piraway Ferry, Columbus County, N. C.
Haynes, Willis	Bogue Swamp, Columbus County, N. C.
Louder, Moses	Conwayboro, Horry County, S. C.
McCoy, S. H.	White Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
McKay, Joseph	Elizabethtown, Bladen County, N. C.
Monroe, Gilbert	White Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
Moore, Alex'r H.	Leesville Robeson County, N C.
Morrison, Mitchell	Whiteville, Columbus County, N. C.
Robeson, Needham	Abbottsburg, Bladen County, N. C.
Thompson, Alex'r R.	Lumberton, Robeson County, N. C
Whitted, John M.	Prospect Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
Wooten, Nelson D.	Clarkton, Bladen County, N. C.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches, Counties, and States.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Males.	Females.	Total Member'p.	Asso. Missions.	Foreign Mission.	Minute Fund.
BLADEN CO., N.C.													
Abbottsburg,	Needham Robeson, Jas. Atkinson, C. McDaniel,									42	75		49
Baldwin's Branch,	Nelson D. Wooten, George Lewis, Luke Hodge,					5		17	25	42			1 25
Bryan Swamp,	Harrison Singletary, Lewis Singletary, Jno. F. Hester,	1	2		3	3	1	36	37	73	75		50
China Grove,	Not represented.												
New Light,	John Croslin, Frank Campbell, Jackson Jones,	7		1		1	1	39	78	117	1 50		1 50
New Hope,	A. P. Wright, Iver Wright, John McMillan,	3		1	15	1	1	93	154	247	50		50
Pleasant Hill,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									27			
Paradise,	Joseph McKay, Kneept McKay, Hardy Cromartie,												
BRUNSWICK CO.													
Cedar Grove,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									43			
Macedonia,	Not represented.									12			
Mount Zoar,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									15			
Pleasant View,	Sharpe Gore, Andrew Frink, George Bland,	50	1	24	1	3	2			133	25		25
Zion's Hill,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									22			
COLUMBUS CO.													
Brister Creek,	S. W. Bellamy, J. Wellington Regan, Prince Gimeright,	1		2	1	1	2	14	21	35	50		50
Gum Swamp,	Not represented.												
Mill Branch,	Henry Lewis, Squire Lewis, Benjamin Frink,		8					11	17	28	1 00		50
Mount Moriah,	Henry Powell, Virgil Powell, Jacob Gowen,			1		1				69	60		
Mount Olive,	John Morley, Richard McDugald, James Evans,	2			4	2	1			118	1 00		1 00
Piney Grove,	Wright Singletary, Sunday Lennon, Macon Lennon,							11	1	12	50		50
Salem,	Levi Lennon, James Powell, Jeffry Rush.	2	1		5	5	1	52	50	102			1 00
Sandy Plains,	Israel Moore, Mitchell Morrison, Lewis Moore,				1	7	1			26			1 00

Spring Hill,	Frederick Shaw, Alfred George, Henry Best,	2		2		7		9	17	26		70			50
Welch's Creek,	Josiah McKay, Wiley Baldwin, C. R. Baldwin,	1	3		2	2	1			42					
Whiteville,	Willis Haynes, Edmund George, Reuben Johnson,	1	2		3	3	1	33	29	62	1	00			1 00
Zion's Plain,	York Ward, Benjamin Smith, Rufus Gore,	3	4		1	7				33		50			50
CUMBERLAND CO.															
Fayetteville,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									118					
Gray's Creek,	Marcus Byrne, Julius Byrne, Lewis Smith,	1		2	5	4				134	1	00			1 00
Savannah,	Thomas McDaniel, Henry McNeill,	9	2	6				26	45	71	2	00			50
Spring Hill,	Samuel Graham, Nathan Gilmore,	1	2					8	9	17		50			50
Swan's Creek,	Jack Inman, Handy McNair, Wm. Smith,	2	2					13	18	31	1	00			1 00
ROBESON CO.															
Cedar Grove,	Charles Carlisle, Sam'l Brown, H. Caldwell,	14	8	2		3	1	32	40	72		50			1 00
Ebenezer,	J. Pittman, W. H. Floyd, J. C. Coleman,	9	8	3	3	5		27	51	78	1	31			1 00
Hilly Branch,	Isaac Moore, William Cobb,	5	7		2		1	22	16	38			1	01	80
Pleasant Hill,	Alex'r Moore, A. R. Thompson, Frank Atkinson,	29	4	12	16	10	1	127	175	302	2	00			2 00
Sandy Grove,	Essic Cobb, P. A. Rhodes,	12	1	1	1	4	2	22	47	69					1 00
St. John's,	B. George Baker, Henry Smith, Thomas Currie,	6	4	1		1				24	1	00			2 00
HORRY CO., S. C.															
Chesterfield,	Not represented. (Total 1874.)									20					
Flag Patch,	D. M. Bellamy, J. B. Bellamy, Henry Stanley,	4				2		12	16	28	1	00			50
Hickory Grove,	Daniel DeWitt, Frank Hazelton, A. B. Varine,	10	7							17					1 00
Mount Calvary,	Preston Richardson, Thos. Brantley, Sandy Cox,	8	4	1		2		19	26	45		50			50
Pleasant Grove,	Owen C. McMillan, David McMillan, Wash. McMillan,	2				4		32	47	79	1	00			1 00
		208	70	59	63	83	17	655	919	2469	21	36	1	01	24 79

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

The importance of religious periodicals has been so often set forth in Reports, that we deem any arguments, aside from our spiritual necessities and the culture of our minds, wholly unnecessary. We do most heartily recommend the "Biblical Recorder" to the patronage of our brethren and sisters of this Association and would urge them to study well what it teaches. The most certain method of making an excellent paper is to give it an excellent subscription. Price only $2.10 a year.

Respectfully submitted,

LEVI LENNON,
NATHAN GILMORE, } *Committee.*
A. H. THOMPSON,

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The magnitude of the subject is so overwhelmingly great that we are at a loss how to take hold of it. We have before us the teachings and examples of our blessed Saviour in going about and doing good, in sending his disciples abroad even to the ends of the earth and that of the world, to preach and teach his glorious Gospel; and in addition, we can see how these operated in the Apostolic age—met together and conferred about the interests of Zion—wrote letters to the churches telling them to lay by on the first day of the week as God had prospered them—to be ready to distribute and to serve the Lord's Christ with singleness of heart. And now we have our white brethren dotting the whole world with men and missions for Jesus. With the lights before us let us take a decided stand and step forward in this Heaven-sent work with such a zeal and energy that characterizes only the true disciples of Jesus our Saviour.

Respectfully submitted,

MITCHELL MORRISON,
JAMES EVANS, } *Committee.*
MOSES LOUDER,

REPORT ON SPECIAL CHARGES.

Your Committee with heartfelt sorrow report the departure of two of our brethren in the ministry during the past year. Elders Benjamin Louder Gause and Elymus Mims. We mourn not as those who have no hope, but believe that our loss is their eternal gain.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MORLEY,
JAMES EVANS, } *Committee.*
H. S. SINGLETARY,

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Too much attention to our Sabbth School enterprise cannot be given. "Train up a child in the way he should go," is the Bible plan, and then he will be enabled to read the Scriptures from his childhood and become wise unto salvation. The ministry in our opinion should speak of this subject

constantly to their congregations and to all the families they visit, and thus, ever keep the importance and the subject before the people. Every church should have a Sabbath School, and every person from the cradle to threescore and ten ought to be learners therein.

Respectfully submitted,

WRIGHT PITTMAN,
WRIGHT SINGLETARY,
RICHARD McDUGALD, } *Committee.*

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

To train the mind morally and mentally for usefulness in life and for happiness beyond the grave is the great business of this life. Hence the importance of attending to it in the time given us by our Heavenly Father, and judiciously using the means within our reach so as to secure the desired end. Ministerial education with us is wofully defective and while this continues we shall ever be embarrassed with ignorance, superstition, bigotry and vanity. While every effort of civil government is being made, and every denomination of Christians laboring to improve the social, moral, literary and spiritual condition of their constituents. Should we not avail ourselves of every possible means to elevate the standard of education in our midst and in our churches. We recommend the raising a fund for the benefit of poor young men called of God to preach his Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN CROSLIN,
MITCHELL MORRISON,
JAMES EVANS, } *Committee.*

REPORT OF ELDER JOHN M. WHITTED, MISSIONARY.

DEAR BRETHREN: I have traveled during the year fifty-four days, walked six hundred and seventy-four miles, and preached thirty-eight sermons. collected in money from the churches, twenty-four dollars and forty-two cents. Received in pledges ——.

Fraternally,

JOHN M. WHITTED.

REPORT OF ELDER JAMES BRIGHT, TREASUBER.

Nov. 1874, To am't received from Finance Committee,...		$40 72
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By am't paid Elder J. M. Whitted, Missionary,	$20 38	
" balance paid Treasurer,.....	20 34	
	$40 72	

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES BRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

Cost of printing these Minutes, $28 00.

Paid transcribing $9 00.

Paid O. C. McMillan, Clerk, $1 50.

CONSTITUTION

—OF THE—

Grey's Creek Colored Baptist Association.

WHEREAS, God's people are commanded to strive together for the Faith of the Gospel; and Whereas, In union there is greater strength and capacity for assisting in the promotion of Christ's Kingdom on earth; we, professed disciples of Christ, resolve to unite in an associated capacity on the following Constitution:

Art. 1.—This Association shall be denominated and known as the "Gray's Creek Colored Baptist Association, of North Carolina."

Art. 2.—This body shall be composed of delegates chosen by the Churches connected with it; each Church being entitled to three delegates.

Art. 3—In the selection of these delegates the Churches shall pay strict regard to the moral and intellectual qualifications of those appointed.

Art. 4.—The delegates thus selected should bear from their respective Churches a letter certifying their appointment, and communicating information relative to the state of the Church and the interest thereof.

Art. 5.—The Association shall select out of their number, annually, a Presiding Officer, a Secretary, a Treasurer, who may be elected by rising, or by ballot, and who shall continue in office until the time for the annual election.

Art. 6.—The object of the Association shall be the promotion of Christ's Kingdom among men; and the way and means of accomplishing this shall be selected and prosecuted in strict conformity to law and testimony.

Art. 7.—The Association shall have a fund, created and sustained by voluntary contributions from the Churches, which shall be held by the Treasurer, and subject to the disposition of the majority present at any annual session.

Art. 8.—A faithful record shall be made of the proceedings of each annual session, which shall be presented to each session.

Art. 9.—It shall be the province of the Association to appoint an Executive Committee, to whom may be submitted the consummation of any plan adopted; which Committee shall be answerable for their official acts to the Association.

Art. 10.—The Association shall not maintain permanent fellowship toward any of her Churches which neglect to institute and preserve proper or Gospel order among their members; nor toward any of her Churches and Ministers who treat her Constitution with contempt; but shall sustain with all her influence such as promote Gospel principles and order.

Art. 11—It shall be the province of the Association to invite visiting and corresponding brethren to seats, who shall be entitled to speak on any point under discussion, but not to vote.

Art. 12.—The Annual Session of this Association shall begin on Friday before the first Lord's Day in November, at such places as may be chosen.

Art. 13.—By appointment of the Association, there shall be an Introductory Sermon preached, and also a Charity Sermon.

Art. 14.—The Constitution may be amended at any Annual Session by a vote of two-thirds of those present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Gen. 1:26. 2 Cor. xiii:14.

II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. iii:16.

III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, particular Election. Acts xiii: 48. Romans viii:28, 30; xi:5, 7. 2 Tim. ii:10. 1 Pet. 1:2. John vi:37,44.

IV. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Ps. liv:5.

V. We believe in the doctrine of man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, of his own free-will ability. Eph. ii:1, 10.

VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed Righteousness of Christ. Gal. ii:16. Rom. iii:24; v:9.

VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, converted and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Eph. i:4, 7. 2 Thess. ii:13, 14. Tim. i:5.

VIII. We believe that the Saints shall persevere in Grace, and shall never fall finally away. John x:28, 30; xiii:1. 1 Pet. i:9.

IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lnrd's Supper are ordinances of Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that the true mode of Baptism is Immersion. Matt. iii:16. Acts viii:38, 39. Rom. vi:4. Eph. iv:12.

X. We believe in the Resurrection of the Dead, and a General Judgment 1 Cor. ch. xv. Rev. xx:11, 15.

XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. xxv:46. Rev. xx:12, 15.

XII. We believe that Ordained Ministers, or such as have come under the imposition of hands by a regular authorized Presbytery only, have a right to administer the Ordinances. Acts xiii:3. 1 Tim. iv:14. 2 Tim. i:6.